

reliance that made them effective workers when they got out into the world. The leading teachers and business men of New England to-day were treated in this rough and ready style. You may say then that these boys were of a rather exceptional character—men of more than the average parts and abilities. They were, so to say, the pick of the lot. The rank and file preferred to stay at home and go into business at an earlier day to wasting a number of years, as they said, merely to know a few books and become wiser than their neighbors. These average boys could see only the useful objects in living. This is the view of the average boy or man, I presume, you will find about everywhere. Hence the average boy could not bear to give up his chance to get a trade or a farm experience together with some hundreds in the bank just for the sake of a little doubtful advantage to be gained at college—'

"Do I understand," here I ventured to interpose, "you intend to imply that to-day we have more of the average boys at college than formerly?"

"Yes, sir; I think it so most decidedly. You can see how this is very clearly the case. We have now more rich men than were common in the old days, men who can afford to send their boys to college. There are two questions to be solved among our wealthy men to-day in sending their boys off to college. First, how they shall get rid of Jack and Harry till they get old enough to be called properly grown up; and, second, how to get on with them conveniently till something opens up in the way of business enterprise to give them a chance to get to work. So Jack and Harry are sent to college, and if they *happen* to make a mistake and learn something this is all clear gain and better than was expected. Thus the general average in our colleges is lowered in comparison with the past.

"Of course this is not saying we do not have a great many excellent men in our colleges to-day. We do have undoubtedly a much larger number than we used to see, for no doubt a much larger proportion of our best young men go to college now than went in the past generation. I am only saying that the general average of our college men must be at least somewhat below that we are speaking about."

"Well, do you think, Professor, that our young men have as high standards or as high ideals as the young men who were in college with you?"

"Before I reply to this, my dear fellow, let me say that I do